



Arizona Department of Education  
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## **Four-Year Graduation Rates for the Cohort Class of 2004 Technical Notes**

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This document is designed to accompany the four-year graduation rate calculations for the cohort class of 2005. This is the first cohort whose graduation rates were calculated using individual student information submitted by schools to the department's Student Accountability Information System (SAIS). The method used to calculate the graduation rates conforms to the National Governors Association Compact on State High School Graduation Data.

### **Calculating the Graduation Rate**

The graduation rate is a measure of the percent of the cohort class of 2005 who graduated within four years. Students are considered a potential member of the cohort of 2005 if:

1. The student enrolled as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader or US for the first time in the 2002 school year.
2. The student enrolled as a 10<sup>th</sup> grader in the 2003 school year, and had not previously enrolled in a high school grade (9-12, US).
3. The student enrolled as an 11<sup>th</sup> grader in the 2004 school year, and had not previously enrolled in a high school grade (9-12, US).
4. The student enrolled as a 12<sup>th</sup> grader in the 2005 school year, and had not previously enrolled in a high school grade (9-12, US).

For the calculation of the four-year graduation rate students in the cohort fall into three categories:

- A. Students who have graduated.** These are students in the cohort of 2005 who have graduated on or before the beginning of the 2006 school year (defined as September 1, 2005). They are identified in SAIS by exit/year end codes of W7, G, or S7.
- B. Students who remain in the cohort but have not graduated.** These are students in the cohort of 2006 who remain in school but have not graduated; who have dropped out; who have left school and whose current status is unknown; who have left school to obtain a GED or enroll in vocational school; or who have been expelled. They are identified in SAIS by exit/year end codes of W3, W4, W5, W11, W12, W13, S3, S4, S5, S11, S12, S13, C, A, SA, SC, or SE. Note: Students with year end codes P or R or missing year end codes are considered dropouts if there is no subsequent enrollment or appropriate summer withdrawal.
- C. Students who have exited the cohort.** These are students who were in the cohort of 2006 but who have exited due to illness; transfer to a school that is not an Arizona public school; have left to be home schooled; are in a correctional or detention facility; or are deceased. They have exit/year end codes of W1, W2, W6, W8, W9, W10, S1, S99, S2, S6, S8, S9, and S10.

The graduation rate = students in category A / (students in category A + students in category B)

Because the graduation rate is a cohort measure, schools should especially be aware that:

1. A school is responsible for students in Category B above even if the students were not enrolled in that school in the 2005 school year.
2. A student may be a member of the 2005 cohort because of an enrollment in ninth grade in another school regardless of when the student was considered a 9<sup>th</sup> grader in her current school.